IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Norio Sugawara, et al.

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For : EXTERNAL STORAGE APPARATUS

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via Electronic Filing Services on January 7, 2009.

Yedea H. Walker

(Name of person/signing transmittal)

Signature

Date of Signature

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 7, 2009

This response responds to the Office Action dated October 8, 2008 (Paper No.

20080911). Attached to this response is an Information Disclosure Statement and Fee.